



## RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A CITY POLICY PROHIBITING THE EXPENDITURE OF CITY MONIES FOR THE ADVOCACY OF A PARTICULAR POSITION CONCERNING A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE.

WHEREAS, according to a July 29, 2008 Honolulu Advertiser article, the city has spent \$1.4 million on public relations and outreach efforts concerning the Honolulu High Capacity Transit project; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$120,000 of these monies were reportedly used to pay for advertisements promoting the project; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2007, the Supreme Court of Hawaii issued an opinion in the Rees v. Carlisle case which determined the Charter of the City and County of Honolulu does not grant the prosecuting attorney the authority to use public funds and resources to advocate for a particular election result; and

WHEREAS, the transit project has generated a significant amount of controversy, and has prompted a citizen generated "Stop Rail Now" initiative and council proposed charter amendments concerning this issue; and

WHEREAS, it is the council's belief that the city administration has expended city monies, whether received from the federal government or from the excise tax surcharge, to advocate for the transit project; and

WHEREAS, the council finds that it is improper to use city monies to advocate for a particular position concerning a controversial issue; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it hereby establishes a city policy prohibiting the expenditure of city monies to advocate to the public for a particular position concerning a controversial issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administration is requested to refrain from expending any additional city monies to advocate to the public for the transit project; and



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 08-189

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## RESOLUTION

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the mayor, managing director, director of budget and fiscal services, director of customer services and director of transportation services.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Chen Kotayashu*

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

AUG 20 2008

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Honolulu, Hawaii

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Councilmembers